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DIFFICULTIES IN RADIOFICATION OF USSR

V. Vasil'yev, Chief
 Main Adm of Radiofication
 Min of Com USSR

The major task of completing the radiofication of the USSR within the next few years has been assigned to the organizations of the Ministry of Communications USSR. In the past year, these organizations encountered both organizational difficulties and problems in supplying the required amount of material and equipment for rural radiofication work. Despite these difficulties, the majority of communications workers have recognized the problems facing them. These problems are quite different than those of past years.

First of all, the available power reserves of wired radio centers have been utilized, permitting the installation of tens of thousands of loud-speakers in kolkhoz homes at low expense. In areas where no reserve power was available or this power could not be used because of the distance from existing wired radio centers, new wired centers were built. Over a thousand such centers were built last year.

Existing wired radio lines were used to complete the plan for kolkhoz radiofication. Along with this, new overhead lines were built and more than 10,000 km of underground cable were laid in unforested regions.

The results of radiofication work could be much better if other ministries would give communications workers the help which they require. In adopting the decree on complete radiofication of the country, the government imposed a number of responsibilities not only upon the Ministry of Communications, but also on several other ministries whose participation is essential to the task.

Important problems have been assigned to the Ministry of the Communications Equipment Industry USSR (MPSS). However, this ministry has not yet given proper attention to the problem of rural radiofication. Its leaders apparently do not feel responsible for the fulfillment of the government decree on complete

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radiofication of the country. This is the only possible explanation of the fact that kolkhoz wired-radio-center equipment was not put into mass production in 1950. Neither has the production of economical loud-speakers been begun; moreover, the MPSS has reduced the production of loud-speakers to a minimum this year. Not enough economical battery receivers are being produced and the problem of producing dry batteries with long shelf life has not been solved.

MPSS workers should remember that problems of radiofication cannot be solved without their active participation. While increasing the production of radio receivers year after year, they forget that they must also increase the production of radio tubes. The forgetfulness on the part of the radio industry worker leads to an inadequate assortment and number of tubes in the trade network and many receivers become inoperative.

Although the MPSS has not provided communications workshops with spare parts, the workshops are obliged by government decree to carry out guaranteed repair of radio receivers. It is time for MPSS directors to give their attention to rural radiofication and assure normal operation of the radio receivers produced by their plants by manufacturing the required assortment of spare parts, tubes, and dry batteries.

The Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy is also lagging in satisfying the needs of rural radiofication. Its plants are producing large hooks which cannot be used for rural radiofication. The required amount of zinc-plated conductors are not being produced. Instead of thin wire, the ferrous metallurgy plants prefer to produce a large-diameter wire which is not zinc-plated.

The Ministry of the Electrical Industry is confronted with many tasks in connection with rural radiofication. Mark PTVZh wire, used for indoor leads, and Type PRVPM underground cable are being produced in insufficient quantities. Underground cable lines laid with the help of simple machines can be built very rapidly and make possible continuous operation of loud-speakers under any atmospheric conditions. An enormous amount of high-quality wood, iron hooks, and porcelain insulators is now expended on the construction of overhead wired-radio lines. Therefore, the use of underground cable is exceedingly important, especially in unforested regions. The Ministry of the Electrical Industry must also completely satisfy the needs of rural radiofication in such simple devices as limiters, the lack of which delays the installation of loud-speakers.

No less important are the problems faced by the trade organizations. The Tsentrosyuz must organize the merchandising of spare parts and radio tubes in each village and rayon store. This measure will make it unnecessary for rural radio listeners to journey to the oblast center for tubes, capacitors, resistors, or other parts. Many radio receivers are now inoperative because the tubes which have burned out are not available in the rural stores.

The results of the first stage in the movement for complete radiofication of the country shows that the communications workers will be able to perform this responsible task. However, they count on the help of the other ministries which, along with the Ministry of Communications, are responsible for the implementation of this most important measure.

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